



## *News From* **DAVE WELDON**

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**Florida's 15th District** -- *Serving Brevard, Indian River, Osceola, and Polk Counties*

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### **Weldon Votes for ANWR Oil Production**

*Weldon, House and Senate Voted for Same Measure in 1996, Clinton Vetoed Bill*

(WASHINGTON, DC) - U.S. Rep. Dave Weldon, M.D. today joined a majority of other House members in voting to approve legislation opening a portion of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR) for oil and gas production. According to Weldon, opening ANWR is an important step in reducing U.S. dependence upon foreign oil and creating more jobs at home.

"Now more than ever, Americans are feeling the pinch of high gas prices due to our continued dependence upon foreign oil," Weldon said. "Back in 1996, President Clinton proudly predicted that ANWR wouldn't open for another ten years. Well, here we are ten expensive years later, and we could really use this oil," he continued, noting that President Clinton originally vetoed ANWR drilling back when the proposal was first approved by Congress.

Recent estimates indicate that 1.5 million barrels of oil per day could be safely produced through oil and gas production in ANWR – roughly the daily number of barrels the U.S. imports from Saudi Arabia. To put this in perspective, Weldon cited figures from the U.S. Department of Interior indicating that oil from ANWR could fuel Florida's energy needs for 29 years.

"Why are we paying the Saudi Royal Family for oil produced in Saudi Arabia when we could be paying American workers to safely produce equal amounts of oil at home?" Weldon continued. "Opening ANWR is a long-overdue, common sense approach to help meet our growing energy needs."

Drilling in a national wildlife refuge is not new. According to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Government Accountability Office, over 30 refuges currently have oil and gas wells on them without incident.

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